

Appl. No. 10/814,444
Amendment dated March 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for quality and proficiency control in fecal blood testing, comprising the steps of:

providing an artificial mixture comprising non-human peroxidase-acting constituents simulating human feces for testing that provides a positive test for occult hemoglobin;

testing such mixture along with other feces samples for occult blood; and
utilizing said artificial mixture as a control material when testing such feces samples.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein said artificial mixture further simulates the appearance, texture or odor, or any combination thereof, of human feces.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A composition for use in performing a fecal blood test as a quality control and proficiency test, said composition comprising:

artificial feces, said artificial feces comprising:

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an aqueous base;
a thickening agent;
a stabilizer;
a preservative; and
a peroxidase mixture comprising at least a non-human

peroxidase-acting constituent, said composition yielding a positive test result.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original): The composition of Claim 6 further comprising a coloring agent and/or an odorant.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A composition for use in quality control and proficiency testing of fecal occult blood tests, comprising:

artificial feces, said artificial feces including:
an aqueous base material;
a thickening agent;
at least one stabilizing agent;

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at least one preservative;

optionally, at least one coloring agent;

optionally, at least one odorant; and

~~The composition of Claim 13~~ further including a peroxidase-acting constituent consisting of 1 part human hemoglobin to 2.5 - 7.5 parts other peroxidase-acting constituents for yielding a positive test result for fecal occult blood.

Claim 15 (original): The composition of Claim 14 wherein said other peroxidase-acting constituents consist of non-human hemoglobin.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): A composition for yielding a negative test for fecal occult blood comprising:

an aqueous base comprising 1 liter of water;

thickening agents selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polypeptides and vegetable gums;

at least one stabilizer for preventing syneresis;

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at least one preservative for providing resistance to bacterial and fungal attacks;

at least one coloring agent for mimicking the color of human feces;

optionally, at least one odorant for mimicking the odor of human feces;

~~The composition of Claim 16 wherein said polysaccharide is 150 grams cornstarch, said polypeptide is 4.175 grams gelatin, said stabilizer is 166.8 ml pyrogenic silica; said coloring agents are 6.375 grams burnt sienna acrylic color and 5.375 grams burnt umber acrylic color, and said preservative is 5 grams sodium azide and wherein said ingredients are all dissolved or suspended in 1 liter of water.~~

Claim 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (new): The composition of Claim 6 further comprising human hemoglobin in the ratio of 1 part of said human hemoglobin to 2.5 - 7.5 parts of non-human peroxidase-acting constituent.

Claim 25 (new): The composition of Claim 6 further comprising sodium bicarbonate.

Claim 26 (new): The composition of Claim 6 wherein said non-human peroxidase-acting constituent comprises non-human hemoglobin.

Claim 27 (new): The composition of Claim 6 wherein said non-human peroxidase-acting constituent comprises bovine hemoglobin.

Claim 28 (new): The composition of Claim 14 further comprising sodium bicarbonate.

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Claim 29 (new): The composition of Claim 14 wherein said other peroxidase-acting constituents comprise bovine hemoglobin.